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RECORDED BY FAX

AUG 09 2004

Office of Patent

In re Application of :
Hart et al. :
Application No. 10/664,432 :
Filed: September 19, 2003 :
Attorney Docket No. 00-12D1 :
DECISION ON PETITION
UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), filed June 7, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i) to the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim for priority herein is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed provisional applications was submitted during the pendency of the nonprovisional application for which the benefit is sought. *See* 35 U.S.C. §119(e). Accordingly, having found that the instant petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e), the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim of benefit to the prior-filed provisional applications is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed applications. In order for the instant

application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed provisional applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Paralegal Liana Chase at (703) 306-0482.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center AU 1646 for appropriate action on the amendment submitted June 7, 2004, including consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed provisional applications.

Frances Hicks
Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

Attachment: Corrected Filing Receipt